

15 November 1967

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: New Fighting on Cyprus

1. A flash embassy cable (624) from Nicosia reports that serious fighting has broken out in the Ayios Theodoros - Kophinaou area (see map) about 25 miles south of Nicosia. From the scanty information available, it appears that the UN peace force is in a poor position to intercede. A UN official believes that the affair was contrived by General Grivas, the Supreme Commander of the Greek Cypriot force. Grivas led a patrol through the area on 14 November and met no resistance from the Turkish Cypriot fighters, although the Turkish Cypriots appear to have been ordered to resist the patrol. Our information is that another such patrol was scheduled for today, and may have resulted in this fighting.

2. This incident is probably the result of tensions arising out of an incident in March 1967, when a UN force removed Turkish Cypriot police from a police compound in Kophinaou along the main Nicosia-Limassol road. The tension then spread to the village of Ayios Theodoros inhabited by both Greek and Turkish Cypriots. A shooting match between the Greek and Turkish Cypriots occurred there last July. Since then, the Turkish Cypriots have said they would refuse to allow Greek Cypriot police patrols to enter Ayios Theodoros; they thwarted one such attempt with a roadblock. The UN has worked for a compromise in the situation, but has been determined to help restore the Greek Cypriot patrols by force if necessary.

3. Grivas' role undoubtedly has helped to stir up the long-standing intercommunal tensions on the island. Long an advocate of harsher treatment of the Turkish Cypriot community than is President Makarios, Grivas may have chosen this occasion to recoup some lost prestige, especially after the release to Turkey last Sunday of Rauf Denktaş, a Turkish Cypriot extremist whom Grivas reportedly would have liked to liquidate.

No Foreign Dissem
SECRET

MEMORANDUM FOR: RECORD

Requested by DCI via Mr. Godfrey. Assigned to
[REDACTED] Copies with maps
sent forward to DCI. Cy to [REDACTED] and PA/IE/A.
Cy also to LCO and to OAD/CI.

1 Cy to [REDACTED]

15 November 1967
(DATE)

FORM NO. 101 REPLACES FORM 10-101
1 AUG 54 WHICH MAY BE USED.

(47)